



Department of State

TELEGRAM

F210

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ACTION: POL-2
INFO: AMEMB ECON
PAO AID/D DAO CNRHON

CONFIDENTIAL KATHMANDU 3174
DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDO/123
JULY 25, 1973

R 241030Z JUL 73
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5379
INFO RUQVLK/AMEMBASSY KABUL 359
RUSBAE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 6291
BT
CONFIDENTIAL KATHMANDU 3174

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, NP, AF
SUBJECT: NEPALESE INTEREST IN AFGHANISTAN COUP

REF: STATE 144371 (NOTAL); KATHMANDU 3155

1. DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST FOR INFORMATION WAS TIMELY, HELPFUL, AND MUCH APPRECIATED. AS EXPECTED, FONMIN KARKI TOOK LITTLE TIME DURING MY CALL ON HIM THIS MORNING BEFORE ASKING FOR MY ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN. I REPLIED THAT I HAD RECEIVED CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION FROM WASHINGTON, BASED IN PART ON REPORTS FROM AMBASSADOR NEUMANN IN KABUL, WHICH INDICATED: (A) NEW REGIME LIKELY TO BE CONSERVATIVE, AUTHORITARIAN, NATIONALISTIC, AND PURITANICAL; (B) ITS LEADERS HAVE ASSURED US THAT COUP WAS WITHOUT OUTSIDE PARTICIPATION, THAT AFGHANISTAN'S NONALIGNED FOREIGN POLICY WOULD BE CONTINUED, AND THAT EFFORTS TO PROMOTE AFGHAN VIEWS ON PAKISTAN WOULD BE PURSUED THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS; AND (C) AT PRESENT WE HAVE NO REASON TO QUESTION ANY OF THESE ASSURANCES BY AFGHANISTAN'S NEW LEADERSHIP.

2. FONMIN EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR THIS INFORMATION WHICH HE SAID WAS VERY HELPFUL AND TENDED TO CONFIRM PICTURE OF SITUATION THAT WAS GRADUALLY EMERGING AS FAR AS HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES WERE CONCERNED. HE ASKED WHETHER I KNEW WHERE KING ZAHIR WAS AT PRESENT AND WHAT HIS PLANS WERE. I SAID ONLY INFORMATION I HAD WAS PRESS ACCOUNTS INDICATING HE WAS IN ITALY BUT THAT IF I OBTAINED FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS I WOULD PASS IT ON.

3. FOLLOWING MEETING WITH FONMIN I ALSO RELATED FOREGOING TO JOINT SECRETARY SHARDUL RANA WHO EQUALLY APPRECIATIVE.

4. BOTH FONMIN KARKI AND SHARDUL RANA INDICATED THAT NEPAL WOULD PROBABLY SOON RECOGNIZE DAUD GOVERNMENT.

5. IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN PASS ON TO FOREIGN MINISTRY



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PAGE 2 KATMANDU 3174

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REGARDING ZAHIR'S PLANS? I PRESUME QUERY BASED ON CONCERN
FOR HIM PERSONALLY DUE PREVIOUS ROYAL VISITS AND PERSONAL CONTACT
ESTABLISHED WITH NEPALESE LEADERS.

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